

dignity and respect. Over the past few decades, corporations have worked to undermine and weaken workers' fundamental rights to organize and collectively bargain. We should, for example, pass the PRO Act, which would safeguard and strengthen workers' fundamental right to organize and ensure that workers are able to decide whether or not to join a union through a fair process.

It would help restore fairness to an economy that has been rigged against workers for too long. We owe it to workers and families to create an economy that works for them, not for corporate interests. Pro-worker nominees, like Elizabeth Watson, will help us realize this goal. The Senate should advance her nomination.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 687, Elizabeth Schoff Watson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Reserving the right to object, the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs works closely with congressional leaders and staff on a variety of issues, including legislative proposals, hearings, briefings, requests for information, and general topics. It is essential that the nominee is willing to work with both Democrats and Republicans in a bipartisan fashion.

Elizabeth Watson is currently the executive director of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Center—director of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Center—hardly a springboard of bipartisanship.

During the previous administration, Ms. Watson retweeted posts such as “White supremacists don’t belong in the White House,” referring to President Trump.

Her past actions have cast doubt on her ability to be impartial and her willingness to work in a bipartisan manner.

My concerns with this nominee are not unique, and there are many other Members that have concerns as well. There should be a vote on this nominee.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

STURDY ACT

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise this evening to share the urgent need to pass a bipartisan bill, a piece of legislation we have been working on for years now that will save the lives of children.

Every year, emergency rooms across the country treat over 22,000 preventable injuries—22,000 preventable injuries—caused by falling furniture, like dressers or television sets. On average, roughly half—half—of those injured are children, and of the vast majority of those killed by furniture tip-overs, some 81 percent are children. Eighty-one percent of all those killed by furniture tip-overs are children.

The death of a child is an unspeakable loss. There is no way to calculate it, and if you haven’t lived through it, I don’t think any of us can understand what some families have lived through. Yet in America, the most powerful Nation on the Earth, in less than 20 years, more than 460 children have been killed by these furniture tip-overs, and that number is the reported fatality number.

Compounding the grief and loss that these families experience is the fact that these deaths might have been prevented.

The answer here is pretty simple: mandatory stability standards that would make our homes safer for our children. For years now, Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator COTTON, and I have led a bipartisan effort to pass the STURDY Act.

Here is what all of the letters in that acronym stand for: The Stop Tip-overs of Unstable, Risky Dressers on Youth. We call it the STURDY Act.

The STURDY Act would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to create a mandatory stability standard for furniture. That is all it does. It would create a mandatory stability standard. It would require companies to ensure their products are tested for safety and stability before being sold. It is a simple, commonsense requirement that will save the lives of children and prevent injuries.

Families in Pennsylvania and across the Nation have been waiting too long for the Senate to act. There are families like the Lamberts and the Collases who have experienced every parent’s worst nightmare—the loss of a child. These families have given my staff permission for me to share their stories tonight on the Senate floor. These are two stories I will start with.

You can see on my left, Katie Lambert.

Katie Lambert, in 2005, was 3 years old, just 3 years old. Her mom Judy describes her as “everything a three-year-old child should be—full of love and spontaneity.”

Katie loved Thomas the Tank Engine; she loved Buzz Lightyear; and, of course, she loved her older brothers.

Katie’s family had just moved into their new home in Huntingdon Valley, PA, in Southeastern Pennsylvania. One day, Katie was playing in her room while her mom painted the room next-door. Suddenly, Judy heard an “awful crash” as she described it. Judy ran into the room to find 3-year-old Katie crushed beneath a tall, mirrored wardrobe. The wardrobe had been on carpet and was unstable.

Judy said:

While we don’t know what Katie was doing, she was probably dancing and watching herself in the mirrors. She may have bumped up against it or tried to open one of the doors or maybe the vibration of her dancing in the room was just enough to cause it to become unstable and fall forward on her.

That is what her mom Judy said.

You can see in this photograph a beautiful little child, Katie Lambert, who died on that day. As her mom Judy held her, waiting for an ambulance to arrive, Katie took her last breath. She would have been 21 years old this year, and Judy wonders what she would be like today. What would she look like as a young woman? What college would she have chosen and what career path? Would she like spicy food like her brothers do?

Judy Lambert wanted me to share a message today, and it is quoted right here on this poster:

Please, do everything you can to ensure that no other family suffers the pain we do.

So said a mom about what we should do when we think of this child.

Then, Judy went on to say:

I am begging you to pass the STURDY Act now.

We should listen to her words and act.

The second child I will talk about tonight is Curren Collas. Another family, the Collas family, experienced a similar tragedy in their home in West Chester, PA.

Curren was just 2 years old—2 years old—with blond hair and deep blue eyes that his mom Jackie described as “soulful.” Curren loved his cars. He would carefully display his collection of them in a perfect line.

In February of 2014, Jackie walked into Curren’s bedroom to wake him for the day. She discovered Curren’s five-drawer dresser had fallen on him. Curren was trapped between it and his bed. As she waited for an ambulance to arrive, Jackie tried to resuscitate Curren but was later told by the paramedics that he had no vital signs when they took over.

In the months after Curren’s death, Jackie would sometimes stumble on his toy cars, hidden around the house—reminders of her spirited son, Curren.

Obviously, Jackie and her family’s lives will never ever be the same.

Here is what she told us in memory of her son. She said:

Even if I live until 100, it’s going to be before Curren and after Curren.

Just two stories tell us all we need to know about why we have to pass this bill. We could tell a lot more from Pennsylvania and so many other States that are represented by those Senators I mentioned and represented by Senators from other States. There is no reason—no reason at all—for families to endure this unimaginable grief, but, tragically, families across the Nation share similar stories of losing children to these horrific furniture tipover accidents. You will hear more of their

stories from my colleagues in the days ahead.

In the memory of Katie and Curren and so many others who were lost to their families—killed in these tragedies—we must pass the STURDY Act. It is not complicated. It is not complicated at all. We must ensure that the furniture sold to consumers is tested—tested for safety and tested for stability. Congress must do all it can. We in the Senate must do all we can to ensure that no more children—no more children—are harmed or killed by furniture tipovers.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Pagan nomination be considered expired, with all previous provisions remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 117-81, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States: Robert M. Scher of the District of Columbia.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EMMETT TILL ANTILYNCHING ACT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Madam President, for the last 4 years I have worked hard with my friends across the aisle on antilynching legislation, legislation that has failed in this body 200 times. We passed it in 2019 under Republican leadership in this Senate, only for it to fall apart in the House.

Well, after more than a century of failed attempts, both Chambers of Congress have finally passed this historic piece of legislation. I am proud to say we did the right thing not for Repub-

licans or Democrats, but for Americans who have watched their government fall short too many times.

While we cannot erase our Nation's past, today, we have taken a significant step toward a better future for all. This long overdue piece of legislation sends a clear message: We will not tolerate hatred and violence against our fellow Americans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ERIK CLARK

• Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to honor a true hero from Olathe, KS Officer Erik Clark. His brave actions during an active shooter situation at Olathe East High School helped keep an already tragic situation from taking students' lives.

On Friday, March 4, a senior student at Olathe East was called into the administration office after a tip that he had brought in a gun to school. A few minutes into meeting with the assistant principal, the senior wouldn't open his backpack, prompting Officer Clark—the school's resource officer—to step into the situation. Shortly after Clark arrived, the student pulled out his weapon and began opening fire.

In a flurry, Clark responded and returned fire, ultimately shooting and subduing the student, but not without himself and the assistant principal being wounded as well. Both, however, have thankfully been discharged from the hospital. I pray that something like that may never happen in those halls or any others across America again, for even though there were no fatal wounds, the scars of trauma everyone at Olathe East will surely run deep.

Lastly, I want to thank this brave officer for being so courageous to dive headfirst into peril on that day. If it were not for Officer Clark, this situation could have turned out to be a much darker day in Olathe. As the son of a police chief, I know the risks our men and women in blue take on each day. I admire Officer Clark for continually working to ensure our safety. He has shown what true valor looks like, and Olathe East is safer because of him. I ask now that my colleagues show this same admiration and recognition for Officer Clark and that he may stay safe protecting his community.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. KALEB STOPPEL

• Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to honor a school administrator that went above and beyond the service to his students, Dr. Kaleb Stoppel. His brave actions during an active shooter situation at Olathe East High School helped keep an already tragic situation from taking students' lives.

On Friday, March 4, a senior student at Olathe East was called into Dr.

Stoppel's office after a tip was submitted saying the student brought a gun to the school. Dr. Stoppel first asked the student to open his backpack, which he did not comply with, prompting the school's resource officer to step into the situation. Shortly after the officer arrived, the student pulled out his weapon and began opening fire.

In a flurry, the officer returned fire, ultimately shooting and subduing the student, but not without himself and Dr. Stoppel being wounded as well. Both, however, have thankfully been discharged from the hospital. I pray that something like that may never happen in those halls or any others across America again, for even though there were no fatal wounds, the scars of trauma for everyone at Olathe East will surely run deep.

Lastly, I want to thank Dr. Stoppel for being so responsive to the situation and keeping students out of harm's way. Had he not investigated the tip, this tragedy surely would have been much graver. Olathe East is safer because of him. I ask now that my colleagues show this same admiration and recognition for Dr. Stoppel and that he may stay safe while educating our future leaders.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S UNJUSTIFIED, UNPROVOKED, UNYIELDING, AND UNCONSCIONABLE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE, AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14024 OF APRIL 15, 2021—PM 26

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying papers; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: